

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9520

UNCLAS MANILA 16137

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJ: VIETNAMESE STUDENTS IN PHILIPPINES

REF (A) STATE 184507

(B) STATE 248921

(C) STATE 253787

(D) STATE 268542

(E) STATE 271351

FOR ORM

1. REF A ESTABLISHED ELIGIBILITY FOR REFUGEE STATUS FOR AID SPONSORED STUDENTS IN PHILIPPINES. SUCH CASES WERE HANDLED IN CATEGORY OF FORMER DIPLOMATS.

2. AID/MANILA REPORTED THAT FOLLOWING FOUR VIETNAMESE WERE AID SPONSORED: BUU HO, LE TRONG PHU, VALENTINO GIAO AND KRA JAN TEH.

3. BUU HO SENT WORD TO EMBASSY THAT HE WISHED TO COMPLETE STUDIES. THE OTHER THREE WERE PROCESSED ON 25 OCT 75 FOR MOVEMENT TO UNITED STATES. PROCESSING DID NOT REVEAL ANY GROUNDS OF INELIGIBILITY.

4. LE TRONG PHU WAS INCLUDED IN GROUP OF 41 REFUGEES WHO DEPARTED MANILA ON OCTOBER 29 FOR INDIANTOWN GAP VIA HONG KONG.

5. VALENTINO GIAO AND KRA JAN TEH HAVE BEEN ASSISTED BY AID UNCLASSIFIED

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EMPLOYEE MICHAEL BENGE SINCE TERMINATION OF AID SUPPORT.

THESE TWO STUDENTS ARE STILL IN SCHOOL HERE. THERE IS NO SPONSOR PHYSICALLY LOCATED IN UNITED STATES FOR THESE TWO STUDENTS.

6. SPECIFICALLY BENGE DESIRES THE FOLLOWING:

A. HAVE BOTH STUDENTS REMAIN IN PHILIPPINES UNTIL BENGE DEPARTS FOR REASSIGNMENT. BENGE IS NOW BEGINNING TWO YEAR ASSIGNMENT. HIS HOME LEAVE ELIGIBILITY DATE IS 26 OCT 77 (REF E). BENGE INDICATES THAT BOTH STUDENTS HAVE AT LEAST TWO YEARS UNIVERSITY WORK TO COMPLETE BEFORE RECEIVING DEGREE.

B. HAVE DOCUMENTS OF TWO STUDENTS SENT TO UNITED STATES, STUDENTS PROCESSED AS PAROLE CASES IN UNITED STATES IN THEIR ABSENCE, APPROPRIATE TRAVEL DOCUMENTS PREPARED IN STUDENTS NAMES, APPROPRIATE PHILIPPINE VISAS STAMPED IN TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, AND DOCUMENTS RETURNED TO PHILIPPINES.

7. IN CONVERSATION WITH BENGE, CONOFF ADVISED HIM THAT:

A. BENGE'S PLAN FOR STUDENTS NOT CONSISTENT WITH NORMAL VISA PRACTICE OR PROCEDURES FOR PROCESSING REFUGEES.

B. NO ASSURANCE COULD BE GIVEN THERE WOULD BE REFUGEE PROGRAM IN 1977 WHEN BENGE INTENDS RETURN TO UNITED STATES WITH REFUGEES.

C. NO ASSURANCE COULD BE GIVEN STUDENTS WOULD QUALIFY UNDER NORMAL IV REQUIREMENTS.

D. BOTH STUDENTS WERE ELIGIBLE FOR MOVEMENT TO UNITED STATES BEFORE 31 OCT 75 AS REFUGEES. CONOFF URGED BENGE TO LET STUDENTS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SPONSOR SEARCH FACILITIES AT CAMPS IN UNITED STATES.

8. BENGE STILL HOPES PLAN PER PARAGRAPH 6 CAN BE FOLLOWED AND INDICATED HE COULD MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR UNPRECEDENTED HANDLING THROUGH HIS CONTACTS IN UNITED STATES.

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9 AS TIME WAS RUNNING OUT, CONOFF ATTEMPTED WITHOUT SUCCESS TO COMMUNICATE WITH TWO STUDENTS TO ASCERTAIN THEIR INTENTIONS. TWO TICKETS WERE PURCHASED IN THEIR NAMES BUT THEY FAILED TO APPEAR FOR 31 OCT 75 FLIGHT. TICKETS WERE USED BY TWO QUALIFIED STANDBY REFUGEES.
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